

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
INSTRUCTION (USA)**

L'ACADEMIE DE BORDEAUX (FRANCE)

THE EMBASSY OF FRANCE IN THE UNITED STATES



Memorandum of Understanding

BACKGROUND AND RESOLUTION

Driven by the desire to strengthen ties between the citizens of both the State of Wisconsin and the Sovereign State of France, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (hereafter referred to as Department) and the French Embassy, representing the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French Ministry of Education (hereafter referred to as Ministry) began a dialogue in Madison, Wisconsin in 2003, to discuss the details of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the mutual benefit of both the State of Wisconsin and the Sovereign State of France. In June 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between both parties, agreeing to general principles hereafter mentioned.

In December 2005, l'Académie de Bordeaux (hereafter referred to as the Académie) and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, conscious of the possibilities that the collaboration of both agencies can offer to the field of education, confirmed their desire to support a relationship between Aquitaine and the State of Wisconsin in the framework of the current agreement.

To implement this general Memorandum of Understanding

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Represented by Ms. Elizabeth BURMASTER, State Superintendent

The Académie de Bordeaux

Represented by M. William MAROIS, Recteur et Chancelier des Universités d'Aquitaine

The Embassy of France, representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of National Education

Represented by M. Yannick MERCOYROL, French Cultural Attaché, Chicago

agree to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Educational Cooperation as established in the following agreement.

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. The Ministry, the Department and the Académie recognize the importance of the service rendered to the French and American educational systems by a cooperative educational program between Aquitaine and Wisconsin that encourages teacher exchanges and the emergence of new pedagogical practices, aimed at developing the international dimension in teaching and professional development in France and the United States.
2. Relying on an ensemble of programs dedicated to the exchange of teachers, to initial and continuing education of French and American teachers, to the development of pedagogical tools, this agreement seeks to contribute to the improvement of the partners' educational systems.
3. The Ministry, the Department and the Académie have established as objectives, certain cooperative programs developed in the framework of this agreement in order to:
 - a. promote the teaching and learning of the French language and culture in Wisconsin and the teaching and learning of English and the culture of the United States in Aquitaine;

- b. promote and develop exchanges between both jurisdictions for the benefit of students and educational staff (teachers, administrators, and other educational personnel) of the State of Wisconsin and the Académie de Bordeaux. These exchanges will aim to provide students with a world language education that trains them for future personal, academic, and professional success and provide educational staff with extended knowledge of international educational contexts and professional growth opportunities;
 - c. encourage the sharing of resources and the creation of pedagogical tools;
 - d. promote relationships in the areas of general and vocational education and of culture so as to foster a better knowledge and understanding of their respective educational systems and cultures.
4. This MOU is applicable to schools that have received agreement from the Department and the Académie for their participation in the programs.

II. COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

The basic means of cooperation between the Department and the Académie will concern all levels of education from pre-kindergarten to university levels and will be implemented through programs as follows:

1. Teacher Exchange Program

- 1.1. Each year, the Department, in cooperation with the Ministry and the Académie, will promote the “Job to Job” exchange of a number of teachers from accredited schools in Wisconsin who teach the French language and teachers from Aquitaine who teach English. The Wisconsin teachers will teach English in France and the teachers from Aquitaine will teach French in Wisconsin.
The teacher exchange will be for a maximum of one academic year.
- 1.2. The Department and the Académie, in cooperation with the Ministry, will encourage the development of short-term exchange programs for Wisconsin and Aquitaine teachers in other fields of studies.
- 1.3. The Department and the Académie, in cooperation with the Ministry, will facilitate the hiring of teachers from both parties for schools in need of teachers with bilingual skills, in accordance with each agency’s legal requirements.
- 1.4. The Department and the Académie, in cooperation with the Ministry, will favour the placement of student teachers in schools in their respective regions, to the extent possible.

2. Teacher Assistant Program

Each school year, the Department, in cooperation with the Ministry and the Académie, will assist accredited schools in the placement of a number of teaching assistants from France to teach French in secondary schools in Wisconsin. The Department, in cooperation with institutions of higher education in Wisconsin, will assist the Ministry and the Académie, in the placement of a number of teaching assistants from Wisconsin to teach English in schools in France. Teaching assistants are university students in a teacher preparation program.

3. In-service Training for Educational Personnel

In order to improve the quality of education and to encourage exchange of knowledge, information, and educational expertise of common interest, the Ministry, the Department and the Académie will study the possibility of:

- 3.1 Organizing, each in its own region, continuing education such as seminars, lectures, study groups, or training courses for teachers, school principals, and other educational personnel, encouraging the study and comparison of teaching approaches and the exchange of information about educational systems;
- 3.2 Promoting reflection, on themes jointly chosen, through study groups in each region with an exchange of results or findings. In order to reduce the costs, these activities will be based, as much as possible, on new technologies, such as Internet exchanges or videoconferences;
- 3.3 Encouraging programs, on a short-term basis, for current teachers or student teachers involving teacher mentoring and class observation in accredited schools reciprocally in Wisconsin and Aquitaine.

4. Secondary School Student Exchange Programs

The Ministry, Department and the Académie will encourage exchanges between students from Aquitaine and from Wisconsin schools, for individuals or small groups, to promote cultural exposure and second language acquisition and to provide them with a better understanding of the broader work environment. These exchanges will be intended for French students learning English and American students learning French.

- 4.1 The Ministry, the Department and the accredited schools participating in the student exchange program will design programs and determine the conditions for short stays in the partner region, reciprocally, in school and home settings.
- 4.2 The Ministry, the Department and the Académie will develop short term exchange programs (one to three months) for individual secondary school students.
- 4.3 The Ministry, the Department and the Académie will encourage joint activities to improve the quality of vocational and technical education, to the extent possible and depending on opportunities, by assisting placement of technical or vocational school students as interns in businesses in Wisconsin and in Aquitaine, through the "Internship Program" of the Embassy of France in the United States.

5. Connections between Schools

The Ministry, the Department and the Académie will facilitate contacts between schools wishing to develop educational cooperative projects. They will encourage communication between schools, through the Internet or other new communication technologies, to jointly develop educational and cultural projects.

6. International Links

So as to give the partnership a wider scope, the Department and the Académie will facilitate connections with their respective partner regions, such as Hessen, Germany, or other European or international regions, and promote actions including them. As a result, this agreement can be a first step to a larger project with a multilateral agreement including both parties.

III. EVALUATION

1. Annually, representatives of the WDPI and the Académie de Bordeaux will develop a report evaluating the implementation of this program. This report may propose changes and improvements. A copy of this annual report will be sent to the Embassy of France in the US and the French Cultural Services Office at the Consulate of France in Chicago, as well as to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Académie de Bordeaux.
2. An annual meeting of representatives of the two administrations to evaluate the development of the programs which are the subject of this Memorandum may be planned. In that event, the meetings will take place alternately in one country and the other.


IV. DURATION

1. The term of this MOU will be four (4) years, beginning on the date of last execution by parties. At the end of the agreement, terms of renewal will be discussed unless either party desires that the agreement should not be renewed. In that case, that party shall forward a letter of non-renewal 30 days prior to the date of expiration to the other party.
2. This MOU may be terminated by either the WDPI or the Académie de Bordeaux if such a decision is reported to the other signatory by written notice six (6) months in advance.
3. During the time the MOU is in effect, all parties being in agreement may execute Addenda that improve its effectiveness.
4. Unless otherwise stipulated, any addendum to this MOU will take effect when signed by the Ministry, the WDPI and the Académie de Bordeaux.

This MOU is equally valid in the State of Wisconsin and in the Académie de Bordeaux.


Signed in Madison, Wisconsin, on the 19th day of April, 2006.

For the Wisconsin Department of
Public Instruction



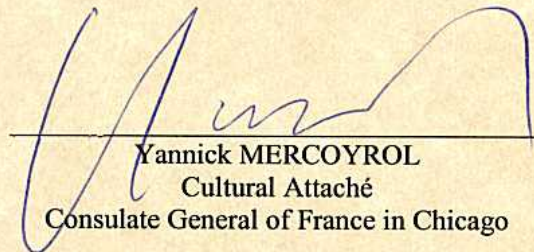
Elizabeth BURMASTER
State Superintendent

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William MAROIS, Recteur,
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Yannick MERCOYROL
Cultural Attaché
Consulate General of France in Chicago